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They tried so hard to have their own child and often thought that it would never happen. Then one day Mary was not feeling very well and she decided to go visit their doctor. Joseph was concerned and decided to go with her. After a blood test and some other routine tests it was confirmed that Mary was indeed pregnant. They were both overjoyed and could not wait to tell everyone they knew. Mary talked all the way home from the doctor on what needed to be done and said that she needed to start making a list so they don't forget anything. According to their doctor this was going to be a Christmas baby.

Amy was born to no prouder parents than Joseph and Mary on Christmas Day. She was a cute Blonde hair blue eyed baby that they knew was conceived in love. They both knew that Amy was going to be the only baby that they would ever have. It was touch and go during the delivery for Mary and Joseph spent a lot of time just praying for them to both make it through. Both their parents spent all day in the hospital with them praying and hoping for a miracle. In the end it was all worth it, Joseph had his beloved Mary and Amy seemed to be a healthy baby. Both Mary and Amy remained in the hospital for a few days just to insure no complications came about.

When Joseph was not at the hospital he spent time at home going over Mary's lists to make sure everything was in order. He also prayed to God and thanked him for the miracle that he bestowed upon them. He was in Amy's new room making sure all was in order when he decided to sit down in the rocker and take a good look around. He knew that in a few days the house would be filled with the smell and sounds of a new baby. He was really tired and fell asleep in that rocker. He woke up to darkness. He had slept for a number of hours and it was already past visiting hours. He jumped up and called Mary in the hospital and told her what had happened. She said that she loved him and it was alright. She knew that he was tired and to get a good night sleep and she would see him tomorrow. Joseph was definitely relieved. Since he already had a good nap he ate a small meal and finished Amy's room. When he got done he knew it was exactly what Mary wanted.

The day finally came and they were taking Amy home. It was a very cold and windy day and they made sure they had everything to protect their new baby from the weather. Joseph pulled the car in front of the hospital and helped Mary and Amy out to the car. When they got home he was able to pull into the garage and everyone was glad to be out of the weather.

They took Amy to her new room and put her gently into the crib. Mary sat down in the rocker and started to cry tears of joy. The room turned out just as she wanted. Joseph knelt by her and they both cried together while Amy slept in her new crib. Coming back to reality they realized they had to get things ready for when Amy will soon wake up for a feeding.

Everyone soon got into the swing of things and time just flew by. Amy was now a beautiful toddler of three and a joy to both May and Joseph. Family and friends told those stories of the terrible two's, but Amy didn't seem to do any of those things. She was a kind and gently little girl who loved dolls and animals. On her third birthday Joseph brought home a Shih Tzu puppy and Amy wanted to name the puppy Angel.

Amy and Angel were always together. When Amy slept, Angel slept with her. When Amy ate, Angel ate. Angel and Amy played so nicely together. Amy often put Angel in her dolls stroller and pushed her around. Angel was such a good puppy.

When Amy turned five it was time to go to school. Mary was at home with Angel and the puppy who was now two looked and looked for Amy. When Mary picked her up at the bus stop, Angel was on the leash waiting for Amy to get off the bus. Once she saw her beloved Amy there was no holding her back. Amy couldn't wait to see Angel either. They went in the house and played until dinner.

In the spring after Amy turned five Joseph and Mary noticed that she was having a lot of fevers. The first couple of doctor's they saw said it was nothing and that all kids experience it. With the fevers Amy also experienced joint pain and was very weak. All the time Angel would not leave her side. Finally Joseph and Mary took Amy to the emergency room where she was admitted and spent a week going through all kinds of tests. It was determined that Amy had Leukemia. Both Joseph and Mary were devastated. The doctor explained the course of treatment, but did not hold anything back and said that Amy would not live until her tenth birthday. She also went on to tell them it may not last that long. They discussed treatment with the doctor and were told there was an excellent cancer center for children not far from there home. The doctor said that she would make some phone calls and let them know. Amy was able to go home after another week and she was feeling better.

Poor Angel did not know what happened. All she did was mope around the house for two weeks. Joseph told Mary that Angel knew something was wrong. He believed animals can sense these things. When they brought Amy home Angel perked up to her old self again. Once again Amy and Angel were always together.

Mary decided to keep Amy at home and home school her. She wasn't sure why but Joseph was more positive and said that in the next few years they could find a cure. It gave both Amy and Mary a new purpose in life. Mary wanted to protect Amy for as long as she could.

During the next couple of years Amy spent a lot of time in and out of the hospital. The trips back and forth took its toll on Mary, even though she did not want to say anything to Joseph. He was trying to hold down his job and be with them as much as possible. The medical bills were mounting and all the extra's that the insurance did not pay came out of their pocket. Joseph also did not want to say much to Mary, because he did not want to cause any more stress for her. He cried a lot more now anytime he was alone. He knew that losing Amy would be devastating for both of them, especially Mary and he wasn't sure about Amy's puppy Angel. The poor little thing moped around all the time when Amy wasn't home. Luckily he was able to take Angel into the hospital a few times and he seemed to help both Angel and Amy.

In the next couple of weeks Amy started to talk to Gabriel and as she talked Angel just looked and listened. The hospital allowed Angel there a lot more now. She talked to Gabriel about all sorts of things and when she talked to him she always seemed very happy. Amy also started to grow weaker each and every day. Then one day Mary went to get some coffee and met Joseph as he was coming into the hospital. She started to cry on his shoulder and was telling him how hard this was. Mary was afraid that it wasn't going to be long now. Joseph took her into a quiet corner and he too cried. They knew that they would miss their beloved Amy.

Both Mary and Joseph had wiped the tears and got some coffee and headed back up to Amy's room. Coming down the hall they could hear Amy screaming and Angel barking. They both ran to her room and could not believe their eyes. Amy was running around the room laughing, screaming and just rambling on about Gabriel and Clare. Joseph came over and grabbed Amy in his arms. She gave him

a really big hug and said I Love You Daddy. Mary came over and hugged them both and Amy said I Love You Mommy. Joseph sat down in the chair and put Amy on his lap. He was so glad to see the big smile on her face. Angel also jumped on his lap and gave them both a lot of licks on the face.

Joseph and Mary asked Amy if Gabriel and Clare were friends from the hospital and Amy said no they were her special friends. Amy jumped down off of Joseph's lap and jumped back into the bed. Angel wanted up and Mary lifted her up on the bed. Mary again asked her about Gabriel and Clare and Amy once again told her they were her special friends. Both Joseph and Mary just thought that they were some imaginary friends she made up while she was in the hospital and decided to let it go.

Christmas was two days away and Joseph told Mary the snow has started to fall. They also thought that just maybe they could take Amy home for Christmas. Joseph didn't think that would be possible but still believed it may happen. Amy fell asleep with Angel in her arms. Joseph stayed a few more hours and told Mary he had to go because he still had a half day's work on Christmas Eve. He kissed Amy and petted Angel and Mary walked him down the hallway. They said goodnight at the elevator and Joseph promised he would be there early tomorrow.

Mary crawled into the bed beside Amy and cried herself to sleep. When she got up the next morning Amy was still sleeping and it looked like they didn't get much snow. She hoped Joseph would be alright driving to work and then back to the hospital. She worried so much that all of this running was wearing Joseph down. Mary hadn't been home in a long time. Joseph took care of everything and still worked each day.

Joseph worked the half day because they really needed the money. He also had a lot of work to finish before leaving so he got up early and was in work bright and early. The morning went quickly and he had a smile on his face when he was finished with everything he had to get done before leaving. He still had a little Christmas shopping to do before going to the hospital. He and Mary decided they would stay at the hospital and wake up with Amy on Christmas morning. He was going to get Amy a special hand held game she wanted and they would give it to her on Christmas Morning.

After finishing his shopping Joseph was heading for the hospital when he stopped to get a pizza for dinner. He knew that both Amy and Mary loved pizza and even Angel liked a small slice. He also added some dipping sticks for them both. He arrived at the hospital and Amy was in bed with Angel with Mary sitting close by. They both had a smile on their faces when they saw the Pizza box. As they ate the Pizza the talked and laughed. Mary cleaned up and Joseph read a story to Amy with Angel sleeping at the foot of the bed. Mary told Joseph she was going outside for a walk.

Amy seemed to be tired and Joseph thought that she was taking a nap, so he walked out of the room to talked to the nurses. As he was coming back he heard Amy again talking to Gabriel and Clare. He peeked into the room and he didn't see anyone. He waited a few minutes until Amy stopped talking and went back into the room. Amy was sitting on the bed petting Angel. Joseph decided once again to discuss her friends with Amy. He asked her who she was talking to while he was gone and she said Gabriel and Clare. He then questioned Amy who were these two and Amy said that they were her Angel's that God had sent for her. Joseph asked Amy why did God send them and Amy said she didn't want to talk about it anymore. He decided to let it go, but would bring it up again tomorrow with her and Mary and try to figure out what's going on.

Mary came back into the room and told Amy it was time for her to get some sleep that tomorrow was Christmas and maybe she would get something really special. Mary didn't know about the Angels and Joseph decided it wasn't a good time to tell her. Amy settled down and fell asleep. Joseph decided to take Angel outside for an evening walk, before everyone settling down to sleep. It was cold outside

but Angel still seemed to enjoy the walk, but want to go back to the hospital after a short time. When they got back all was quiet both Amy and Mary were sleeping. Joseph cleaned Angel up and put her in the bed with Amy. Angel quickly snuggled up to Amy and before long was sleeping peacefully.

Joseph settled in the chair and listened to the quietness of the room. Soon he settled into a sleep for himself. It didn't seem like he was sleeping long when he was awoke to a lot of commotion and Angel barking. He jumped up to see nurses and Doctors running in. He grabbed Angel to get her out of the way. Something was wrong and it didn't look good. He went over to Mary and held her and Angel while the doctors and nurses worked on Amy. Both he and Mary cried because they both knew that Amy was not going to make it. It seemed like they worked on Amy forever. Finally the doctor said Time of Death 12:01 AM December 25<sup>th</sup>. Joseph realized now who Gabriel and Clare were. They were angels that God has sent to be by Amy's side and guide her on her path to Heaven.